GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:262
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002
WELFARE SCHEME FOR EX SERVICEMEN
RAM SINGH KASWAN

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any welfare schemes are being run by the Government for ex-servicemen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of ex-servicemen benefited by these schemes during the last one year?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 262 FOR 21.3.2002.

The following schemes for the Welfare of ex-Servicemen run by the Government are in operation:-

I. Resettlement Schemes:

(i) In order to provide re-employment opportunities to ex-servicemen in civilian departments the Central Government have provided 10% reservation in Group `C` vacancies and 20% reservation in Group `D` vacancies for them.In Defence Security Corps 100% vacancies are reserved for ex-servicemen. In para-military forces 10% vacancies of Assistant Commandants are reserved for ex-servicemen. The Central Public Sector Undertakings and Nationalized Banks provide 14.5% reservation in Group `C` posts and 24.5% reservation in Group `D` posts. Most of the State Governments have also provided reservation for ex-servicemen in State Government jobs. In order to facilitate their reemployment certain relaxation in educational qualifications and in prescribed maximum age limits for recruitment have been provided. During the year 2001, 10,567 ex-servicemen (provisional figure) were provided employment by the Central/State Governments/Private Sector/Ex-servicemen Security Agencies.

(ii) Loans/financial assistance for setting up small scale industries, service industries, Agro-based industries, Khadi and village industries are provided to ex-servicemen under three self-employment schemes known as SEMFEX-I, SEMFEX-II, SEMFEX-III a National Equity Fund Scheme. The ex-servicemen were sanctioned loans/financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 35 crores under the scheme during 2000-01 to 5395 numbers of ex-servicemen/dependents.

(iii) The ex-servicemen are encouraged to float security agencies and coal transport companies. The Director General Resettlement sponsors ex-servicemen security agencies to various public sector undertakings. The Coal India and its subsidiaries give coal transport contracts to transport companies floated by ex-servicemen.

(iv) Training programmes are conducted for improving employability of ex-servicemen or to enable them to take self-employment after retirement.

(v) Eight percent of petroleum product agencies have been reserved for allotment to widows/dependents of posthumous gallantry award winners, war disabled, war widows etc.

(vi) Ex-servicemen are eligible for Allotment of Army Surplus Disposable Vehicles.During the year 2001, 357 cases have been registered and recommended for allotment of vehicles to Army Headquarters.

(vii) Allotment of Mother Dairy Booths, DMS Booths and Mother Dairy F&V Booths

(viii) The ex-servicemen are eligible for Allotment of STD booths

(ix) The ex-servicemen manufacturing units supplying stores to Defence Establishments under Defence Purchase Programme are eligible for 10% price subsidy of the total value of stores supplied or Rs. 50,000/- which ever is less in a financial year for five consecutive years. However, no request for grant of price subsidy has been received during the current year.

Welfare schemes/benefits:

I. Medical Facilities:

(a) Ex-servicemen, their families and families of deceased Service personnel drawing pension of any kind are entitled to free out patient treatment in 127 Military Hospitals and more than 1000 Medical

Inspection Rooms including 24 exclusively reserved for ex-servicemen. In-patient treatment is also provided subject to availability of beds

(b) Ex-servicemen who are not availing medical facilities from Military Hospitals may choose to draw Rs. 100/- every month for medical treatment.

(c) Ex-servicemen/dependents suffering from serious diseases are given financial assistance from Armed Forces Flag Day Fund to the extent of 90 percent (in the case of Junior Commissioned Officers , Other Ranks) and 75 percent (in the case of officer level) of the total expenditure incurred for treatment in civil/authorized hospitals provided no financial assistance was available from any other source. These are by-pass surgery, Angioplasty, Angiography, Kidney/Renal Transplantation, Cancer/Spastic Paraplegic treatment, Coronary Artery Surgery, Open Heart Surgery, Valve Replacement, Pacemaker Implant. Financial Assistance is also provided to ex-servicemen/dependents for medical treatment in Civil/Authorized Hospitals from Army Group Insurance (AGI) at package rate for certain serious diseases.

II. Financial Assistance :

Financial Assistance is also provided from Raksha Mantri`s Discretionary Fund for marriage of dependent daughters, medical, repair of houses etc. to ex-servicemen in penury, Monthly financial assistance of Rs. 1000/- upto a period of two years is also provided to old and infirm ex-servicemen/widow of ex-servicemen living in penury. An amount of Rs. 59.44 lakhs was incurred for 735 beneficiaries during 2001-02.

III. Education facilities for children:

(a) Free educational facilities are provided to children of Defence personnel killed or disabled in war.

(b) 28 seats in the MBBS, one seats in BDS and two seats in Engineering are available through Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) to dependents/wards of certain categories of Defence personnel.

(c) 25 percent seats are reserved for the wards of serving and ex-servicemen personnel in Sainik Schools.

(d) States/UTs have made reservation of seats in professional colleges/ITI/Polytechnics for wards of serving and retired Defence Personnel.

(d) An education grant of Rs. 600/- and Rs. 300/- p.m. per student is provided to wards of war bereaved, disabled, attributable and non-attributable peace time casualties respectively, housed in 35 War Memorial Hostels, to enable them to pursue their studies. Number of beneficiaries in respect of wards of martyred/disabled soldier are 275 and the number of beneficiaries for wards of ex-servicemen whose death is not attributable to Military service is 30.

IV Travel Concession:

(a) Rail Travel Concession: 75% concessions in rail fare for travel in II Class is available to war widows including those of IPKF casualties. Also, recipients and widows of posthumous recipients of Chakra series of gallantry awards are entitled for free rail pass for traveling in Class I/II sleeper

(b) Air Travel Concession: Certain categories of ex-servicemen are eligible to 50% concession in fare for air travel in domestic flights of the Indian Air Lines.

V Other Welfare Facilities:

(a) Ex-servicemen can avail of Canteen facilities from the nearest CSD canteens.

(b) Sainik Bhawans/Rest Houses spread all over the country have been established for ex-servicemen.